Commission No. 1040

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 20535
May 27, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

RE: DR. HERMINIO PORTELL-VILA

It will be recalled that Dr. Herminio Portell-Vila, 4740 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C., advised on May 13, 1964, that he had received a coded message from an unknown source within Cuba which in his interpretation indicated to him that the files pertaining to Lee Harvey Oswald's relations in Moscow, Russia, with two Cuban Ambassadors there, were turned over to the Castro brothers on November 24, 1963, just two days after the assassination. The message was dated November 24, 1963, and he received same before the twelfth of December, 1963.

Around the time of its receipt, he gave the original of this part to Mrs. Mariada Arensberg of the Cuban Freedom Committee, 1737 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. He believed she passed it on to an unknown government agency, adding that he believed she had contacts in the State Department.

As will be recalled, Portell-Vila did not have a copy of this part of the message and reconstructed it partially from memory.

In an attempt to locate the original, Mrs. Mariada Arensberg, Executive Secretary of the Cuban Freedom Committee, 1737 H Street, N.W., was contacted. She advised on May 25, 1964, that she recalled a small scrap of paper given to her some

time ago by Portell-Vila; that the contents of the paper were in Spanish; that apparently it was in a code known to Portell-Vila; that he told her that the message suggested that Oswald allegedly had contacts with Cuban Ambassadors in Moscow. She said she did not know the contents of the message and did not have a copy of it. She said she did not know Portell-Vila's source, nor did she have any information bearing on the source's reliability.

She said she gave the message in question to someone she knew and could not divulge the identity or association of this person. She then telephonically attempted to ascertain if this person still had the original message or what disposition had been made of it. She said she was unable to locate the person at that time, and upon inquiry by the person answering the telephone she gave the latter the identity of the interviewing agent. She then advised that her contact would call the interviewing agent concerning this message.

On May 27, 1964, Mrs. Arensberg was telephonically advised that no information had been received from the person to whom she had given the document. Subsequently, on the same date, she said that she telephoned her contact, and was given the impression that the matter had been taken care of, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been advised concerning the document in question.

She said that she was only able to say that she gave the document in question to a representative of a government agency.